



MISSOURI SENATE JEFFERSON CITY

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16TH DISTRICT

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Sen. Frank Barnitz Applauds PSC's Efforts to Protect Natural Gas Consumers

JEFFERSON CITY – Sen. Frank Barnitz, D-Lake Spring, today announced his support for the Missouri Public Service Commission's decision to address excessive natural gas rates, which are a financial burden on the 16th Senate District.

The PSC on Monday filed a complaint against the Missouri Pipeline Company (MPC) and the Missouri Gas Company (MGC) for unnecessarily high rates and operational violations. The commission is requesting that the companies reduce their rates by approximately 35 percent annually. The reduction, which amount to nearly \$4 million, would affect: AmerenUE customers in Wentzville, Rolla, Salem and Owensville; all Laclede Gas Company customers; the municipal natural gas systems of St. Robert, Cuba, St. James and Waynesville; and Fort Leonard Wood.

"Midwest winters are cold winters, but the season should not be equated with dreading utility bills as well," Barnitz said. "The Public Service Commission recognizes that the two gas companies have been charging consumers for the cost of transporting natural gas, and the staff has decided to take action so the unfair practice stops."

The PSC's transaction rules dictate that ratepayers are not responsible for covering the utility costs beyond what would be charged if the utility-to-consumer transaction took place in person. According to the PSC, the two natural gas companies have approximately 30 days to respond to the complaint.

"I am glad to see the commission is upholding its mission to ensure that consumers receive reliable, reasonable and affordable utilities," Barnitz said.

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